

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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CHRIST IS RISEN

Christ is risen,
 Hear the message;
 Run, tell it all around
 In every village, town and hamlet,
 Say, He is risen from the ground.
 Take the Truth to every nation,
 Into every foreign land,
 Sing and shout the proclamation,
 Raise your voices, lift your hands:
 In the morning, in the evening,
 Say ye to both young and old,
 Enter in, the gates are open,
 Now the sheep come in the fold.

—Ulysses Phillips



Losing Our Identity

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Cor. 3:18.

God had a plan for mankind, but mankind foiled His plan. He then had to give up His only Son to bring them back to God.

When Christ gave up His splendor and glory to condescend to men of low estate, it was not of His own choosing, but that the will of the Father might be done. He being the Son of God had all, but willingly was born into a poor family. The night of His birth He was denied the comforts of a nice home. Not withholding one thing He went all the way—even to Calvary, then was placed in a borrowed tomb. God did not leave Him there but brought Him forth triumphant over death and the grave.

We too will have to lose our identity if we

are to be hidden behind the cross. Only when we are hidden behind the cross can others see "Jesus only."

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. (Luke 9:23-24). "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Matt. 10:38-39.

Our ideas, our desires, and our ambitions may have to be altered so we can fit perfectly into God's plan, and if we but ask Him, He'll make His plan known unto us.

Ponder the words of this song:

"I want my life to magnify the precious Son of God,

I want my path to justify each step that I have trod.

I want to walk till all the world can see Christ in His fullness, revealed each day in me.

"Oh may my life be to thy praise, O Father, In all I do may thou be magnified.

Thou chooseth me before the world's foundation, Thine own to be that thou be glorified.

"To glorify thee is my plea,

Work out thy purpose, thy plan for me;

A yielded vessel, thine own to be,

Thy praise and glory to live for thee."

Losing ourselves into His will may lead through paths of sorrow, but He will not leave us there. He is coming back for His own. We too can reign triumphantly over death and the grave, being heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

—Neta Murphey

Mary Was First To Believe In Christ And Ponder His Glory

Mary was in the upper room with the disciples of Jesus and her younger sons. (Acts 1:13-14). In agreement of prayer with those present, Mary truly had much to ponder in her heart. In secret adoration, she had watched her firstborn son grow into manhood, and she had quietly wondered what His future would hold. Already knowing of His divine beginning, Mary had believed Jesus could make more wine at the marriage feast in Cana, (John 2:1-11), and she had prompted the servants to do whatsoever He said to do. And so, she had witnessed the first miracle of Jesus.

Later within the crowd about Him, Mary had beheld the compassion and healing power her son possessed. She had known her son was of God, but she had not known His exact mission or how it would be fulfilled. No doubt it thrilled her heart to see the sick and needy find hope and a second chance in the Son of God! Perhaps like other Jews, Mary shared the popular belief that Jesus would rise to power and glory on earth.

Then came the sad news—John, Elisabeth's son, had been beheaded by Herod Antipas! This had struck fear in Mary's heart, causing her to question and plead with the heavenly Father for His Son's protection. Terrible rumors that those in Jerusalem, the Pharisees and Sanhedrin, sought to capture Jesus, only added to her concern about His safety. With worried motherly haste, Mary had rushed to see her son and warn Him of the danger He was in. (Matt. 12:46—*Eerdman's Handbook To The Bible*). Oh, but Jesus was already aware of their wicked

schemes! He publicly let her know that right then He was in the presence of brethren who would do Him no harm. Quietly, Mary had turned away. She felt her son was slipping from her personal touch, but the memories she pondered in her heart no human hand could erase.

There in the upper room during prayer and supplication, Mary may have disclosed some of the precious memories only she could have told, for her memories went back to that glorious night when Jesus was born to her in the crowded town of Bethlehem. No one had been overly concerned that her baby might be born that night, but God had been, and He directed Joseph, Mary's husband, to the inn that had the perfect stable for His Son's birth. Then had come the unexpected visit from the shepherds, who were full of praise to God.

The shepherds had told Joseph and Mary how the glory of the Lord came upon them and how the angel had directed them to the stable. They had said the whole heaven had been suddenly full of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. The shepherds had worshiped Jesus and departed, leaving Mary to rest.

Eight days later when she and Joseph had taken Jesus to the temple to Jerusalem, the prophet Simeon and prophetess Anna, had both blessed Jesus, proclaiming Him to be the redemption of Israel. (Luke 2:21-39). Mary knew her Son was the Messiah her people were looking for, but she felt constrained to keep His identity quiet.

And the visit of the Magi from Babylon had been a financial miracle from God to poor Joseph and Mary. The three wise men had come on camels, bringing rich gifts for Jesus, the King of the Jews. (Matt. 2). They had only come to worship the baby. They probably never knew their gifts helped pay for Jesus' escape into Egypt.

Mary never could have forgotten how Joseph explained God's warning in a dream to, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him." (Matt. 2:13). That warning had sparked the first flicker of fear for the safety of Jesus. Mary no doubt always remembered the hasty flight by night into the land of the Gentiles.

Life had gone on as normal for a household of children, but one special childhood event stood out in Mary's memory. That was when Jesus was 12 and went with them to the Feast of the Passover at Jerusalem. Mary remembered the awful scare they had when they realized Jesus wasn't with their company after they had

left Jerusalem a whole day. Joseph and Mary had hurried back to the temple where they found Jesus talking and asking questions with the scribes there. Mary remembered her reproof to Jesus, and she remembered His answer: "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49).

Yes, Jesus had always known who His Father was. Mary had only been a chosen handmaiden blessed to ponder the fond memories of His birth and childhood. Her experiences revealed the fulfilling of so many prophecies in the ancient Hebrew Torah (Old Testament), that Matthew and Luke later recorded them in their written accounts of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Each one in the upper room could recall the vivid events that led step by step to the final crucifixion of Jesus. After Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, the Sanhedrin had plotted to kill both Lazarus and Jesus. Fearlessly, Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a small colt while people praised God and laid palms before Him. Then in the same upper room, He had given the disciples unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, informing them of His death to glorify God. There was the prayer in the garden for strength from His Father, and there was the kiss of betrayal from Judas, a former disciple.

They remembered the unjust trial and the mockery that Jesus patiently endured. The grief and horror of the crucifixion had stabbed Mary's motherly heart, and Jesus had pity on her. He told John to take care of her and John obeyed, taking her into his own home. (John 19:26-27). Who would have forgotten the three days in which glory was hid by darkness and hope seemed dead? What meaning had life held after that?

Then came the message that Jesus had arisen from the dead! Several of them hastened to the tomb to see with their own eyes the empty grave clothes and empty tomb. The nearby angel told them not to seek the living among the dead. Then Jesus Himself appeared unto them. Later at different times they saw Jesus and even ate with Him in their midst. Jesus did not stay long on the earth as before, but in 40 days He ascended to be on the right hand of His Father. That was His destiny—to intercede for the sins of mankind. (1 Tim. 2:5).

Then Mary, like the rest of the disciples, learned that the glory and power of Jesus was not to reign on lowly earth in a carnal kingdom, but in the high heavens and in the spiritual hearts of men and women. Jesus is yet about His Father's business, and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to lead and instruct in His way of holiness. (Acts 1 and 2).

Forsake sin, receive the Holy Spirit, ponder in your heart the Word of God, and you will share with Jesus the glory of His kingdom.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Christ, The Lover Of Our Souls

Hezekiah, in Isaiah 38:17, exalted the God of his salvation, saying, "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." Let us ponder the words, "Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption." Oh, what a blessed thought of God's love to our precious soul! In love Christ came down from heaven to rescue and redeem our souls from the pit of corruption. God loved us so much that He sent His Son from heaven to pay the ransom for our offences and sins, so that we could be saved from the awful consequence of our separation from Him. God loved us and Christ loved us. God "looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death." (Ps. 102: 19-20). It was His love that caused Him to look our way from heaven. He heard the groaning of our imprisoned souls down here in the bands of sin and despair. He saw our evils and our sins, and was very angry and displeased. But His wrath did not turn away His love and care for us.

We read His loving expression in Isaiah 57:15-16, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth [angry]; for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made." We see that although God was angry because of our sins, yet He did not want to consume us in His wrath and destroy the souls that He had made. He wants to revive those who are contrite and broken in spirit, who are willing to repent and turn back to Him. God could have destroyed us in His anger and wrath, but His love prevailed to give us another chance. He is truly the Lover of our souls. He goes farther in verses 18 and 19 of the same chapter, saying, "I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near,

(Continued on page 12)

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044
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EDITORIALS

Many inspiring thoughts are brought to mind as we ponder the tomb in the garden which held the body of Christ. Yet there is more fulfillment in our lives as we hear and do the Words of Christ which He spoke in His resurrected state. When He met Mary at the tomb, He did not give her long to savor the moment, for He had other things for her to do. As we commemorate Easter, we will not go amiss to consider the precious truth contained in the resurrection message, but let us not forget that we have a mission to pursue. We must serve well in the position where God places us. The story of Christ's victory over death should simply lend inspiration to our faithfulness in daily living.

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We are grateful for those who have sent us material for printing in the *Faith and Victory*. The good that is accomplished through the paper is due to the interest you have shown. Although we edit material to be as concise and nonrepetitive as possible, there are still contributions that sometimes do not make it into print.

We also want to thank the saints who make the printing of the gospel possible through their monetary support. We are assured that those who are behind the scenes, God will reward openly. (Matt. 6:4).

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For some time we have had a need for a better computer system. There is much technology on the market at this time which would benefit us in several aspects of the printing work. We are currently considering purchasing a system that would make the accessing and printing of our mailing list faster, as well as assist us in the area of bookkeeping, setting of type and paging-up of material. Such a computer system would also have capabilities to be expanded for other uses as we are able to integrate it into our different work patterns. The Lord has already provided a sizable portion of the finances required for this project, and we are depending on Him for guidance in bringing it to fruition.

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We recently received an unsigned letter with a question the writer desired an answer to. Due to the nature of the inquiry, we do not feel it would be expedient to answer through the *Faith and Victory*. We do believe the question is worthy of response, so if the sender will mail us an address, we would be glad to reply.

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

IN—"Remember me in your prayers."

—Bro. Earl Bliss

VA—Sis. Dunman desires prayer for her husband whose mind is failing and for her grandson and children who help to take care of him.

CA—"Continue to pray for our Father to heal my eyes."

—Letha Reece

AR—Sis. Mary Foster would appreciate the continued prayers of the saints for her infant grandson.

WV—Continue to pray for Bro. Mart and Sis. Verna Samons.

IL—"I need prayer very much. Also pray for a dear friend who has a tumor. Pray for her salvation and for the tumor to be removed."

—Pauline Smith

OH—"Please remember me in prayer."

—Aaron Evans

NY—"I am asking prayer for my sister; she is having trouble with her eyes. Pray for me too."

—Henrietta Harold

OH—Sis. Juanita Blankenship still desires pray for a problem she is having with her foot.

LA—A request for prayer has been given for Charlene Flynn who is having physical problems.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates For 1990

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — May 9-13

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 25-June 3

Tulsa, OK — June 8-17

Jefferson, OR — June 8-17

Green Bank, WV — June 15-24

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 29-July 8

Fresno, CA — July 6-15

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO

July 20-29

Bakersfield, CA — August 3-12

Duncannon, PA — August 4-12

Durham, NC — August 12-19

Ensenada, Mexico — August 13-19

Boley, OK — August 19-26

California State at Pacoima, CA —

August 24-September 2

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NOTE

In case some have wondered why a Goulds, FL camp meeting date is not listed, Sis. Florene Edwards has notified us that it will not be held this year.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—1 YEAR \$1.00

SAPULPA, OK REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Toney Samons will be holding a revival at the Sapulpa, OK congregation April 9-15. On Easter Sunday, April 15, a dinner will be served in the dining hall. Everyone is welcome to come.

For more information, contact Bro. Richard Madden whose phone number is (918) 446-8202.

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WICHITA, KS SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting in Wichita, KS will be held, Lord willing, April 13-22. There will be a singing on Saturday night, April 14. We are looking for God's help in every way. Please be praying with us.

If you need to contact anyone, you may get in touch with Bro. Raymond Johnson, 1947 Piatt, Wichita, KS 67214, phone (316) 264-5803, or Bro. Keith Marsh, 501 Topaz, Wichita, KS 67209, phone (316) 722-8114.

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ENTERPRISE, AL REVIVAL

Lord willing, our congregation is planning a revival April 25-29 in the community of Enterprise. The chapel is located approximately 28 miles north of Birmingham, AL and two miles west of Interstate 65, off Exit 289.

Bro. Curtis Williams is planning to be with us. A welcome is extended to all.

For more information call Bro. Marshall Whitson (205) 647-6325.

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BOLEY, OK SPRING REVIVAL

"Time and tide wait for no man." Time is fleeting and bringing all of us to our eternal home. What a wonderful thought it is of the saints meeting together in heaven! Let us all be faithful to the Lord so we can hear Him say, "Well done."

Lord willing, the spring revival at Boley, OK will convene April 26-29. We extend a warm welcome to all nations, friends, and loved ones to attend this meeting. "Come now and let us reason together." (Isa. 1:18).

We are looking to God to send Holy Spirit filled ministers and workers to labor in the meeting. Services will be 7:30 nightly, with an all-day service on Sunday. Come praying for the Lord to work in the meeting and for souls to be saved.

For further information, contact Sis. Anna Mae Thompson (918) 667-3648 or Sis. Katherine Williams (405) 235-2270.

In Him,

—Katherine Williams

MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING

The Missouri State Camp Meeting held at Myrtle, MO, will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday, May 9, and continue through Sunday, May 13, 1990.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend. We are praying and expecting the Lord to give us a special visitation this year, and to send ministers of His choosing to labor in this meeting. We trust all who can will come and share the blessings of the Lord with us. We are praying for the Lord to make this a time of special refreshing for the saints, as well as a time when sinners will see their need and be born into Zion. Please join us in prayer for the meeting's success.

Please come prepared for possible cool weather. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

For further information, contact Bro. Paul Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 1195-B, Thayer, MO 65791, phone (417) 264-7060. —Bro. Harlan Sorrell

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JEFFERSON, OR CAMP MEETING

The date of the Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting is June 8-17. All persons in the northwest region who are interested in the truth are urged to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be arranged for you. It will help if you notify us in advance. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds. The entire meeting expense, including meals, is financed by freewill offerings, as always.

If you drive, go to the "Texaco (Pride of Oregon)" service station in Jefferson. Go east from there on Marion Road approximately one mile to Skelton Road. Go north from there one-half mile, and you will see the chapel on the right.

The phone number at the chapel is (503) 327-9916, or you may call Bro. Clifford Wilson at (503) 362-4384, or write Bro. Wilson, 2514 Ridgeway Dr., S. E., Turner, OR 97392 for more particulars.

If you come by bus or train, come to either Albany or Salem, and you will be met. If you fly, come to either Portland or Eugene and you will be met. You should phone beforehand so that someone can be there to get you.

We will be looking forward to seeing you in Jefferson, OR, June 9-18.

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HONDURAS, C.A. MISSIONARY TRIP

On April 25, Lord willing, a company of saints and young people are going on a missionary journey to Honduras, Central America. We will visit the island of Roatan and the main-

land of Honduras. The schedule will include a tent revival and personal evangelistic work. At the last of the visit, opportunity will be available to acquire souvenirs or memorabilia.

Interest was stirred last year among the young people during missionary sessions in the camp meeting season. It was also expressed at this time that this is not a vacation, but an opportunity for saved, concerned young people to have exposure to the work of the Lord.

On April 18, Lord willing, some of the brethren will leave for Honduras to prepare the way for the arrival of the company on April 25. We are asking that those young people who have expressed an interest in going, or anyone else who has a sincere burden to go, contact us as soon as possible. Also, it is important that you get your passport right away and mail them to Bro. Louis Kimble by April 11.

If anyone desires to help finance a young person who is financially unable to go, please send your donation to: Bro. Louis Kimble, P. O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033.

For further information you may contact Bro. Herschel Hargrave (305) 258-4102, Bro. Louis Kimble (504) 467-9039, or Bro. Keith Fuller (216) 864-1128.

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CASSETTE TAPES OF HEART TALKS AVAILABLE

The book, *Heart Talks*, by C. W. Naylor, has been put on four 95 minute cassette tapes. These would be very convenient for those who would like to receive good from this enlightening and inspiring book but want to do so while busy at other things, or by those whose eyes will not permit the reading of the book.

One set sells for \$10.00. This includes the price of the tapes and the postage of mailing them. Address your orders to: Janet McMurrin, Rt. 6, Box 223, Harrison, AR 72601.

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From The Mailbox . . .

WA—Dear saints at the Lord's Print Shop: We certainly thank the Lord for His many, many blessings to us. We are thankful for salvation, and for healing our body so many times. Many times when we have had hard trials He has come to our rescue so that we could come through with victory.

We trust all are well there. We surely appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper. Pray for us as we do for you.

Love in Jesus, —Sister Violet Thomas

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CA—Dear Brother Wayne: Greetings in our dear Saviour's name. Continue to pray for our

Father to heal my eyes. Also pray for our Father to send us a pastor. I get so hungry to hear His Word preached. I truly miss Sister Loretta Harmon.
—Sis. Letha Reece

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MI—Dear saints everywhere: I want to let you know how I appreciate the paper.

The Lord is permitting me to go through a battle with cancer. I would like earnest prayer.

I was sorry to hear of Sis. Maybelle's death. May God bless the work there is my prayer.

—Irene Grover

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OK—In appreciation to all the dear saints, neighbors, friends and our dear children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who made our 60th anniversary so pleasant: We were happy to see so many come so far to be with us. We feel very humble to see the love of God's people. We received so many cards we do not feel we could answer them all, and hope this will let you know how much we enjoyed it all.

The Lord blessed our pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, with a good message that Sunday morning and one young man came forward seeking a closer walk with God. We trust he got the help he was seeking so he will be strong in the Lord.

We had a real burden that morning that Jesus would be lifted up and souls would be blessed, and we feel the Lord answered prayer.

We also want to give praise and thanksgiving unto God for blessing our lives together, for keeping us saved and loving each other. Our praise all goes to our heavenly Father. We can truly say it has been God every step of the way.

We would like to encourage all the young married couples to never leave their first love. "Love suffereth long and is kind, seeketh not her own, and beareth all things. Charity never faileth." (I Cor. 13:4-8). So keep love growing, and you will not regret your efforts.

We again say "Thank you every one, and may the Lord bless you."

—Bro. and Sis. Albert Eck

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WA—Dear workers of the Lord: Greetings in Jesus' name. God is still blessing and answering prayer in our behalf from time to time and I am thankful. Without Him where would we be?

Heaven's gain is our loss in the passing of Sis. Maybelle. I will miss her letters and tracts, because it seems that God directed her what to say and what tracts to send to help me on my way from earth to glory.

I have just finished reading the March paper and enjoyed it.

The sermons I hear from time to time let me know that if people don't make it to heaven, it isn't because we haven't heard, but because we didn't obey His Word.

Please pray for me that I will stay humble at God's feet where I can please Him. May God bless each of you in the Print Shop.

—Sis. Naomi Jones

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OR—Dear brothers and sisters at the Print Shop: I would first like to thank you all for the hard work and effort you put into publishing the *Faith and Victory* paper each month. I hope you are aware of all the dark corners of the world this paper lights up, especially mine. I thoroughly enjoy reading the stories, testimonies, and seeing all the old familiar names of the saints I knew as a child. I thank God daily for my grandmother, Sister Violet Benson, who ensures this paper is sent to me each month. Throughout my life, she has been an inspiration to me. Even though God has seen fit for her to have buried all of her children, save one, and her husband, she still carries the torch for God and bears witness for Him.

Please remember her in prayer, as well as myself, that God will guide our lives and give us strength to carry on. . . . —Honor Tillman

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OH—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and all the dear saints at the Print Shop. I just wanted you to know that I really enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper, and also the children's *Beautiful Way* papers. It is a real blessing to read the letters and testimonies of the saints who write to the Publishing House.

I really thank the Lord for being saved and a part of the family of God.

May the Lord bless all of the dear saints who are afflicted. I am glad that even though "many are the afflictions of the righteous, the Lord delivereth them out of them all." (Ps. 34:19).

Continue to pray for all of us here in Akron. We'll continue to pray for you all.

—Sis. Janice Shaw

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love to you and all your office workers. We do so appreciate all the work you put into the paper. All of us enjoy it so much. I get a lot of good spiritual food from it.

I surely miss Sis. Maybelle and her lovely letters. I knew her when she and Bro. Lawrence were first married. I also knew her family for many years and heard her father, Bro. Miles, preach many times.

Remember me in prayer as I have some arthritis. The Lord has helped my right knee and shoulder from a fall several months ago.

Christian love and prayers,

—Sister Grace Jones

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Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

TX—Greetings in Jesus' dear name, who gave His life that we might live. Thanks to everyone who prayed for me. The Lord has done a wonderful work. I seem to have more strength than I had before I got sick, and my ear has cleared up so I can hear. Thanks to the good Lord. . . .

Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Nellie Lovell

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: I pray all is well with you, your loved ones, and those at the Print Shop.

Wednesday, February 28, my friend Val and I were eating tacos at Taco Bell, when all of a sudden, tables started shaking. The building was shaking, and the hanging lights were swaying. It was a 5.5 earthquake. It lasted about 20 seconds. We then came home to see if either of our homes had been damaged. Thank the Lord, they weren't.

Since we needed some groceries, we then drove to Von's Market which is approximately five blocks from my home. They were closed, as their roof had collapsed. We drove a block further to Ralph's Market. They were open, but had closed off several aisles, as their ceiling had given way and there was breakage from items which had fallen off of shelves. We have had approximately 30 aftershocks since the 3:43 p.m. earthquake, Wednesday, measuring 2.3 or more; one was 4.7 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was in Upland, approximately 15 miles from West Covina. There was some damage and breakage, but no one was killed, so God was with us.

I have an unspoken prayer request.

In His name,

—Helen Carson

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OH—Bro. Murphey: I am sorry I haven't written to tell you how my grandson, Tom, is doing. He is doing pretty good. He goes to school when he feels like it. He has a problem remembering what is said to him. The past has come back to him. He gets around really good. They call him "the miracle boy," for the doctor said he would be in the hospital at least six months, and in three weeks he was back in school. Tom says it is only because of God that

he is here and doing as well as he is. I want to thank all the saints for their prayers. He still has a long way to go. —Sis. Mary Vice

MO—Our dear ones at the Print Shop, and saints abroad: Greetings in our dear Saviour's name. It has been awhile since I have put my testimony in the paper. I am still encouraged in the Lord and find Him to be as faithful to keep us in His love as He always has. Praise the dear Lord! We are thankful for His keeping power, amidst all the turmoil of the world about us. We appreciate His sweet Spirit who leads and guides us daily. It is precious to have Him walk and talk with us, to have Him near when we need Him!

God so marvelously gave me a definite healing this year. I feel I must tell it to His glory! I had a real hard fall in my living room, catching the toe of my house slipper on the telephone cord. I tried to catch myself but could not, so stumbling and falling headlong I hit my chest on the arm of my recliner, which was solid and had no give to it. There must have been quite an injury to my chest bone. I suffered much pain for about two weeks. After the two weeks I was anointed and prayed for which was on a Sunday morning. On Monday it hurt worse, and even more so on Tuesday.

On Tuesday night I was suffering so bad I could not sleep, so I prayed and talked to my dear Saviour about it all night. Finally, near the break of day, I went to sleep and when I awoke I didn't have any pain, and there has not been any soreness or pain since. I truly did rejoice and thanked the dear Lord for healing me instantly. It was a wonderful experience with the Lord. I praise and give God all the glory. I can say He is a wonderful physician.

Be of good courage dear saints, the Lord is still on His throne. Let us be faithful!

Love and prayers,

—Natalie Allen

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OK—"Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord. O my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:" Ps. 146:1-2, 5.

"Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Ps. 150:2, 6.

God is still in the healing business. In March, 1986, I began having coughing spells. They were not light, but deep coughing from the lungs. I had them for several months. I called

my former pastor and asked if he and his wife thought I might have Tuberculosis. I had already quit going to services as I surely didn't want to contaminate the entire congregation. He called the health department and asked what would be the outcome if a person was proven to have T.B. The answer was, "A person has to be sent to a T.B. sanatorium."

"And if this person would not cooperate?"

"In that case, the person would be quarantined and not allowed even to go outside their door."

The enemy began to paint dark pictures, (the only ones he knows how to paint). At the suggestion of my former pastor I went and took the test. My brother went with me as he had retired from work there and knew his way around. The nurse said if the place on my arm got red and angry looking, and swelled, I would know I had it, but to come back in ten days. I never allowed myself to look at my arm during the period of waiting. In the early morning of the tenth day, I went to the Lord in tears and completely submitted unto His will. He gave me the victory. If I had T.B., it would be by the permissive will of God and I could say "Amen." I looked at my arm and could not even find the place where they had given me the test, praise the Lord!

When my brother and I arrived at the health department, the nurse couldn't find it either, and said, "You definitely do not have Tuberculosis." She gave me a card to carry in my billfold proving that I didn't have it. I rejoiced and went back to services.

At times, my cough would lie dormant, but it would return with more force and frequency. During 1988 and 1989 it steadily grew worse. For over a year, if I could lie down, I had to lie on my left side as I would immediately start coughing if I began to turn to the right side. I would, even then, waken frequently during the night in a paroxysm of coughing.

At one time, for over eight months, I couldn't lie down at all. I couldn't even recline in the recliner, but had to sit straight up and sleep. The last three or four months it had gotten to where I couldn't lie down again, as it brought on another paroxysm of coughing, then would start the period of wheezing.

I had arranged my belongings so that they would be less trouble to the children if the Lord decided to take me. I daily submitted to the will of the Lord. During the last three months, I was never free of pain in my chest, day or night.

When the flu was going around, I said to myself, "I must not get this terrible flu." I was very careful, but I took it. The second night I was sick, I had the worst coughing spell I had

had in a long time.

Saints, to my knowledge, that is the last coughing spell I had. God has completely healed me, praise His precious name! I still have several other afflictions and one of them was direly affected with every cough, but, in God's own time, He will either heal me, or take me home as I am. I'm still willing for Him to have His way in my life.

During the four years, and especially the last two, in which I have been so weak, I have had to do only one project a day. If I went to the store, I had to fall in bed or the recliner for the rest of the day.

If I'm seeming to boast, I'm only boasting in the Lord. It has even been beyond my comprehension the things I have been able to accomplish in a day for the past week. I know the Lord has given me the strength for it all. I can't thank and praise Him enough!

Romans 8:28 is still true. I don't know what the Lord would have for me to do yet in this life, but I do want to be faithful in doing whatever He leads me to do.

I believe when the Lord heals us, it is not done only for our benefit. It gives that person a greater responsibility to help further the cause of God. I believe I, now, am more responsible to Him. That is one reason I believe He has impressed me to write my testimony.

I believe the psalmist was right when he said these things are good for us. I believe they are the best thing that could happen to us, for our soul's sake and even for the good and encouragement of others. Let us press the battle on!

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction." Ps. 119:67, 71, 75, 92.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who prayed for me during the time of my affliction, also everyone who put forth any effort in any way towards my benefit and was a help to me in any way. I do thank the Lord for using you, but I thank you, too. May the Lord bless each one is my prayer.

—Sis. Opal Kelly

"One can never repeat too often, that reason, as it exists in man, is only our intellectual eye, and that, like the eye, to see, it needs light—to see clearly and far, it needs the light of heaven."

—Selected

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Nigeria . . .

Feb. 12—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and the entire staff at the Lord's Print Shop, in the consoling name of the Lord Jesus.

Thank you for your letter dated January 16, 1990. We noted with gratitude to God of the life well lived by our mother in Israel, Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, who passed away on January 9, 1990. Please accept our heart-felt sympathy. Her death was painfully felt, knowing her importance in the Faith Publishing House and in the Church in general. We have missed a wonderful mother of great encouragement to us and to the Lord's work in Africa.

We were in Tombia on January 19, 1990. Bro. Felix Ezellie and Bro. Gabriel Ebinum were with me in the tour. Tombia brethren and their present pastor, Bro. Alalibo, received us warmly. We passed through Port Harcourt, but did not call at the congregation as we learned that Bro. F. Naths-Igbani was away on vacation leave.

I attained the age of 68 years on January 4, 1990. I am still physically strong, praise God.

Yours to make Christ known,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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From India . . .

Feb. 16—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you in the precious name of our beloved Lord Jesus. I am very thankful to the Lord for the prayers of His saints in the U.S.A. . . .

I was busy with certain gospel programs in Kottarakkara when Bro. and Sis. Richard Madden and Bro. Jonathan Busbee were there. Also I had special meetings in Trichur, Koratty, Chalakudy, and in Challissery. We arranged a special gospel ministry in Chalakudy to preach the message of salvation to hundreds of people who came to enjoy the annual festival programs and fine works commemorating the well-known Roman Catholic Church at Chalakudy. It was a great success. We need to conduct such a ministry in different parts of this land. I am very covetous of your earnest prayers for the success of the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to me.

I am sorry to hear that our beloved Sis. Maybelle Pruitt passed away from us. I cannot forget her motherly love extended to me while I was there in Guthrie. I will miss her much. However, she is blessed because she has finished the race, fought a good fight, and kept the faith. Now she is with the Lord. Praise God for such beloved saints.

May God use you for His glory and honor.

Yours in Christ,

—P. D. Mathunny

Feb. 19—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and the other dear saints in America, in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

We were glad to know that Bro. Richard and Sis. Oleta Madden, and Bro. Jonathan Busbee reached home safely.

After our general convention, local conventions are going on in different places. A group of ministers from Kerala went to Andhra State to conduct a few day's meetings there and came back with good results. We are getting calls from Bombay to start a congregation there. We pray God to open the way for it if it is His will.

The events occurring in Eastern Europe with the changes in Russia and communism reminds me of the coming of our Lord. Yes, He is at the gate.

Let us see each other through the eyes of prayer everyday.

Your in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese

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From the Philippines . . .

Feb. 24—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus, together with all the workers at the Print Shop and the saints in the U.S. May the love of our Lord keep you always.

I am always thanking the Lord for helping us here in the work. The gospel work is a wonderful work which is dedicated for the salvation of the souls of mankind. We are trusting the Lord to solve our problems and are praying hard that we will remain faithful and always be encouraged to serve God.

Our brothers and sisters here are becoming active in the work of the Lord. They have related to me of group Bible studies with their neighbors. May the Lord strengthen their hearts and minds to serve God always.

Your brother,

—Nonilon Capuyan

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The Only Thing He Wanted

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A little boy always used to come to his father with everything. It happened one day that the father was engaged in his study when the little boy came to him. When he heard the well known tap at the study door, his father said "Come in," and the child entered. "Well, my little man, what do you want now?" "Nothing, Papa; I only want to be with you," and he made his way to the corner of the room, and remained quietly alone with his father. Do we go to God our Father when we do not want anything, just to be near Him? "That they should be with Him." (Mark 3:14). —Selected

In Memoriam

Ola C. Jones was born December 17, 1901, in High, TX. She was the loving daughter of D. R. and Addie Jones. To this union four daughters and one son were born. They all preceded her in death.

On September 2, 1931 she was united in marriage to Bro. T. A. Jones, Sr., of Akron, OH, who preceded her in death. To this union four children were born, two sons and two daughters.

Sis. O. C. (as most of us called her) claimed a hope and true salvation in the Lord at an early age and lived a holy life until the Lord called her home on Wednesday, November 28, 1989.

She was a resident of Akron, OH, for over 55 years. She was a housewife and a member of the Church of God, which she loved. For many years she taught Sunday school and faithfully worked in the kitchen. She was an excellent cook.

Sis. O. C. was a loving, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to others. She would deny herself to help others. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Fond and precious memories of her will live on in the hearts of her sons, Theophilus A. Jones, Jr. and Tillmon A. Jones, both of Akron, OH; her loving daughters, Rachel D. McDonald of Hawthorne, CA, and Lillian Marie Thompson of Akron, OH; sisters-in-law, Lucy Chambliss of Copley, OH, and Sue Jones of Akron, OH; 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The service was conducted by Bros. Keith Fuller, James Bruner and Adolph Robinson. Burial was in Mount Peace Cemetery, Akron, OH.

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Delbert Myron Flynn was born February 6, 1927 in Glendale, CA, and departed this life March 2, 1990 at his home in Loranger, LA.

In March, 1949, he was wed to Beulah Mae White of Guthrie, OK. Together they had one son and three daughters. Sis. Beulah died in August, 1976.

In June of 1981, Bro. Delbert married Malinda Sue Penner. This union lasted to her death in 1986.

In November of 1987, Bro. Delbert wed a third time to Norma Jean Garrett of Webb City, MO.

Bro. Delbert was raised in the truth by saints and maintained an affiliation with the

Church of God throughout his lifetime.

Bro. Delbert suffered from bone cancer, which is one of the most dreadful diseases known to man. The disease generates such pain in the body that often a sufferer feels awful pain from nothing more than the weight of a sheet, and can scarcely stand to be so much as touched. I never saw Bro. Delbert any way but gracious and easy to care for. He was patient with us all through his entire illness. How we appreciate the Lord's faithfulness to him and the prayers of the saints during this time!

At every stage of Bro. Delbert's illness, it seemed some new and more awful calamity lay just ahead, but saints across the nation were praying, and our testimony is that God did not allow his affliction to be what it could have been. Bro. Delbert was often uncomfortable but only one night in really severe pain. Carefully, kindly, very, very tenderly the dear Lord made his bed in his affliction. At the last, the Master took him home peaceably and without a struggle. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Ps. 116:15.

Bro. Delbert is survived by Sis. Jean, his son, Dwayne Flynn, daughters, Phyllis Knoblock, Lawanda Brannan and Cynthia Lou Barham, two brothers and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Richard Madden and Ed Wilson, with burial in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery near Loranger, LA.

—Bro. Ed Wilson

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all for your kindness and help during the illness and death of our loved one; for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, and other ways that your love was extended to us. The Lord greatly manifested Himself in many ways and showed Himself strong in our behalf.

—The Delbert Flynn family

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Mary Ann Bush was called to be with her Lord Jesus from her home in Hammond, LA, on Tuesday, March 6, 1990 at the age of 93 years, three months, and 24 days, where she had lived for many years.

She was born November 12, 1896 in Folsom, LA, being the oldest child of John and Effie Joiner Bernard, parents of a family of ten children, and lived during her early childhood near the Oak Grove Church of God, in an area which is now part of Zemurray Park.

On October 31, 1914, she was married to Mr. Emile Bush of Abita Springs, LA, and to this union was also born ten children; four sons and six daughters.

Sis. Bush was preceded in death by her husband, Emile; one five-year-old daughter; four grown sons, Dan, Wilson, Marvin, and Leonard; her parents and two sisters, Alice and Deannie.

She is survived by five daughters, Mrs. Verna Thezan of New Orleans, LA, Mrs. Leona Willette and Mrs. Audrey Scafidel both of LaPlace, LA, Mrs. Beulah Freeman of Houma, LA, and Mrs. Jean McGregory Mascair of Ponchatoula, LA; three brothers, Mr. Dewey Bernard and Mr. Sam Bernard both of Hammond, LA, and Mr. James Bernard of Bush, LA; four sisters, Mrs. Teanie Ladner, Ms. Pheobe Bernard and Mrs. Easter Quave all of Hammond, LA, and Mrs. Edna Quave of Folsom, LA, also 17 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren, other relatives, saints and friends.

Sis. Bush began coming to church services at the Oak Grove Church of God in the Loranger, LA community as a young child with her parents. She first got saved when she about nine years old, but did not seem to get a good settled experience and knowledge of salvation until after she was about 20 years old. But she testified as to how the Lord had been so good to her down through her young adult life to keep her encouraged in the things of God, and to keep a love for Jesus in her heart from childhood.

She loved the Lord and sought to please Him with her life for the greater part of her adult years, and cast her lot with the saints of God and attended church services with the Church of God at Hammond, LA on the campground for many years. After the campground in Hammond sold she attended services faithfully again at the Oak Grove Church of God until she became unable to do so.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Ed Wilson and Robert Forbes, with burial in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery near Loranger, LA. —Bro. Robert W. Forbes

Christ, The Lover Of Our Souls

(Continued from page 3)

saith the Lord; and I will heal him." Oh, the great love and concern that God has for souls today is still yearning for them to be restored to His fellowship and favor!

In Isaiah 53:6 we read, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Peter refers to this passage in I Peter 2:25 when he said, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." The tender, loving heart of God reached out to us in our lost condition. He was not willing to leave

us in that sad state. He laid on Christ, His only Son, the punishment for our sins. The iniquity of all of us was placed upon Christ in His death on the cross. It was His love that caused Him to be willing to die on Calvary, so that we could be washed and forgiven of all of our sin and wrong. We can now return to Him, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls! He will feed us with the Bread of life from heaven, His Word and His Spirit. He will oversee, guard, protect, watch and preserve our soul. His love is pledged to us forever in the blood of His covenant that He shed on the tree. His blood speaks mercy and kindness to us, forgiving, blessing, strengthening and helping us every day. Oh, how He loves us!

The story has been told of Charles Wesley standing by an open window one night watching a terrible thunderstorm. As he stood there, a bird flew from out of the tempest in through the open window right into his bosom. He wrote the song:

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

"Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly!

While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is nigh.

Hide me, O my Saviour hide, Til the storm of life is past,

Safe into thy haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

"Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on thee.

Leave, ah, leave me not alone, But support and comfort me.

All my trust in thee is stayed, For my hope to thee I cling;

Cover my defenseless head In the shelter of thy wing.

Plenteous grace in thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin;

Let the healing streams abound, Wash and make me pure within!

Thou of life the fountain art, Freely let me take of thee,

Spring thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity!"

Oh, this is the language of our hearts! We are won to Him by His dying love. We do not want to continue in sin and disobedience to our loving Father and Saviour. We want to live for Him, walking by faith for the short season of our earthly life, and someday to go and be with Him forever. Praise the Lord for His great love that has redeemed us from the pit of corruption and cast our sins behind His back forever!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

The Law Of The Lord's House



Easter and Christmas, Sunday too,
 Stand out in some folk's minds taboo;
 While there are many who now say
 Christians should keep the Sabbath Day;
 And being scrupulous of meat,
 Say herbs are what we all should eat.
 Some are contentious about shoes,
 Or beards, head cov'ings, and hairdos.
 There's scruples about holidays,
 Secular systems, means, and ways.
 Man's conscious—it is quite a thing!
 The course of action it may bring
 Depends on how it has been trained,
 And how man's intellect is reined.
 So, with these solemn thoughts in view,
 And pious standards not a few,
 What is the true standard today,
 Or law, which Christians should obey?
 Were we to judge ourselves by man,
 We would e'er long be overran
 By so many conflicting views,
 We'd know not how the right to choose!
 But I'm so glad God made a plan,
 Revealed it in His Word to man,
 Whereby the sweet Spirit of truth
 May guide our footsteps from our youth. (John 16:13)
 God's Spirit in man's inward part
 Gives man a perfect, sinless heart;
 With "holiness," God's law within, (Heb. 10:16)
 By nature man lives free from sin.
 Thus, it is plain for us to see
 What Paul meant, there in chapter three
 To those Galatian folk who fell
 From grace, and no longer ran well.
 Paul said unto those foolish ones,
 "Having in the Spirit begun,
 Are ye perfected by the flesh?" (Gal. 3:3)
 Now let us get the message fresh!
 The flesh can't profit anything, (John 6:63)
 Or to man's heart perfection bring,
 So, since the flesh holds naught in store,
 What's all this legal clamor for?
 'Tis by a far superior plan
 God purifies the soul of man.
 Circumcision and sabbath days,
 And all ceremonial Jewish ways
 Were types of what we have today (Col. 2:16-17)
 Within a "new and living way." (Heb. 10:19-20)
 True righteousness, which brings God praise
 Today, has no regard to days.
 Holiness which salvation brings
 Is placed on men, not days, or things.
 And everything God's people touch
 Is hallowed therefore, inasmuch
 As they do all in view of Him
 Who died and 'rose again for them.
 Time and possessions—all are spent
 In God's will one hundred percent.
 Unto the Lord we eat, or sleep,
 Rise up, sit down, or sail the deep
 And doing all as to the Lord,
 On all we do His grace is poured.
 Thus, who regards unto the Lord
 A day, shall reap equal reward
 To the devotion of his heart
 To God—the day plays no real part.
 And who the day regardeth not
 Shall need not be put on the spot.

This same doctrine is true of meat
 Which men refuse or choose to eat. (Rom. 14)
 Let ev'ry Christian understand:
 Christ's gospel enjoins no command
 To hallow times, or days, or things,
 But a much higher standard brings!
 Look! Holiness is now the law— (Ezek. 43:12)
 It's perfect, having not a flaw—
 The perfect law of liberty
 That rules God's house, whose house are we! (Heb. 3:6)
 This law God writes within our hearts (Jer. 31:33)
 By the good Spirit He imparts.
 And this law never will abjure
 That which in principle is pure.
 So by the principles involved,
 Many such issues must be solved.
 Seeing the house, God's Church, is free
 From legalistic sanctity,
 Should anyone in bondage feel
 To regulations that appeal
 Beyond what nature would embrace
 By holiness acquired through grace?
 With liberty in Christ we're found,
 And by no legal code we're bound.
 So any day that men abuse,
 The saints of God can also use
 To glorify and praise the Lord,
 And His blessing will be outpoured.
 You never need abhor a day,
 For it is the Lord's anyway!
 Observe all things in purity,
 And you'll be blessed accordingly.
 True sacredness is not in days,
 But in a life that gives God praise.
 And whatsoe'er a man may do
 From a pure heart, with Christ in view,
 Is sweet incense unto the Lord,
 And on his soul will be outpoured
 Rich blessings in a copious shower,
 While moments glide by hour by hour.
 That wrought in bounds of holiness,
 Whate'er the day, the Lord will bless.
 And daily, with God's will in view,
 His Spirit will guide, direct you.
 He'll balance you on every line,
 And make your life for Jesus shine.
 He'll teach you how a saint should dress,
 Should act, and speak, and you'll possess
 The meek and lowly mind of Christ,
 A jewel which cannot be priced—
 The grace of true humility,
 Which is to ev'ry grace the key.
 Neither dogmatic, nor headstrong,
 With all in Christ you'll get along.
 You will be gentle, kind, and true,
 When others may differ with you,
 And simply leave those things with Him,
 So clear to you, yet not to them.
 You'll love souls just like Jesus did
 When you in Jesus become hid;
 And by the law you will fulfill
 His loving kindness and goodwill.
 Within you'll feel a reaching out
 Of love to all whom you're about.
 In short, your life will truly be
 What becomes Christianity.

—Harlan Sorrell

In The Fullness Of Time

What is time? It could be better defined if we understand how God considers time. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27). One way time could be defined, is to realize that there is a space or span of time given to each one of us to live our lifetime, and it is left up to us individually how we live and spend that time. How precious and how important we should esteem this allotment, for after death comes the judgment, the awesome time we stand before God. We will then realize more fully what time really is, for a record has been kept of every person that has ever breathed the breath of life. Therefore, how we have lived will determine how our soul will spend eternity. If you were this very moment to breathe your last breath, time would be expired forever for you. Where would you spend eternity?

While we are living and using our time, life brings many things our way. When we are enjoying the pleasant things of life, we're glad to be alive and feel thankful for the good things that have come our way, so we're not conscious of time; but when the hard things come, sickness or adversities in one form or another, time seems to really matter to us. We think, "When is this ever going to change or work out?" We become very anxious and want to know when and how God is going to intervene for us.

I don't believe I will ever forget the time God spoke some encouraging words to me. When God speaks to our heart, it is precious and wonderful! He wants us to hold fast to His words of comfort, regardless of how hard the enemy tries to take our encouragement from us.

This one particular time, I was crying and praying to God, earnestly seeking help. I finally felt like I had prayed through, and a great calmness came over me and I heard a sweet inner voice say, "In the fullness of time, it will all work out." It wasn't long after that when I had a real test of faith. Everything seemed to go in reverse, and the burden became heavier than ever. I again brought it before the Lord, and was reminded of the thought, "In the fullness of time, it will all work out." Such wonderful thoughts then began flooding my soul! I thought of the wonderful promise given to Abraham. Here was a man of great faith. A verse of a song and the chorus says it so well:

"Far down o're the ages a promise divine,
Descended to us in the fullness of time.
A seed should appear as the stars of the heav'n,
And they should inherit a land to be giv'n.

Chorus:

Oh we are the seed so happy and blest,

That dwell in the land of Canaan's holy rest;
Here streams of pure love are flowing along,
And anthems of glory are sounding in song."

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country. . . . For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11:8-10.

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is called "the faith chapter," and in the first verse explains what faith is. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The word "faith" is repeated numerous times throughout the chapter, and mentions several persons who had great faith. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them. . . ." Heb. 11:13.

Nevertheless, when the fullness of time had come, an angel appeared unto some shepherds one night with a wonderful proclamation: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:10-14).

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:4-5. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. . . ." I John 3:1. We can be joint heirs with Christ!

Surely we can comprehend more and more of God's great love to us when we think and ponder upon the plan of salvation. Jesus, the Son of God, was willing to go to the utter depths of sorrow, shame and suffering for us. Though all the powers of hell were against Him, Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave when He was resurrected on that first Easter morning. So as we think of this Easter, a praise of true thanksgiving should well up in our hearts and flood our souls with rapture and joy as we remember that great promise that has already been fulfilled. ". . . Death is swallowed up in victory! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory

through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 15: 54-56.

Oh dear reader, this wonderful plan of salvation is the only thing we can take with us when our time has expired on this earth, and it will last through all eternity as we sing and shout His praises forever and ever! If you aren't enjoying this wonderful salvation, it is still freely offered to every repentant heart. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Yours for Christ,

—Carol Cole

Why Stand Ye Here All The Day Idle?

In the beginning God gave Adam the duty to "dress" and "keep" the garden of Eden. After Adam was disobedient God told him, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground." (Gen. 3:19). From that day to this it has been necessary for mankind to labor to produce food as well as all his other needs, and, no doubt, it will be the same until the end of time. Paul wrote, "If any man would not work, neither should he eat." (II Thess. 3:10). In this last decade of the twentieth century since our Saviour came, many young people, and some not so young, seem to have the idea that the government, or someone other than themselves, will supply their material needs without their having to work for them.

Many people both young and old, seem to have the same idea as to their spiritual needs. They may profess to serve God, but they only look to Him for what He can do for them and can see no need to do anything for Him. If their lives are endangered or they are threatened with the loss of some of their worldly possessions, they will call upon God for help, but they see no need to serve God when things are going well.

Jesus said, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 6:38). And in another place, "but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 8:28-29). And again, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

Jesus is our example, and the Bible says that we "should follow His steps." (I Peter 2:21). How can any person possibly think that they can go to heaven when they die, when all of

their earthly life is spent fulfilling their own selfish desires and seeking their own pleasure, and have done nothing to fulfill God's will in their life. We wouldn't expect any employer to pay us wages if we just showed up at his place of business and didn't accomplish what he was paying us to do.

Matthew 20:1-16 tells the parable of the laborers in the vineyard and of how each man who labored, whether the whole day or just one hour, received the same wages. The thought to consider here is that each one who labored accomplished what their employer wanted them to do, thus earning the wage that was paid to them. Matthew 25:14-30 relates the parable of the talents given to servants while their lord was away, the rewards for the two servants that did the will of their lord, and the punishment for the unprofitable one who did nothing with his talent but hid it until his lord returned.

Oh, let us not stand idle, but labor in the harvest for lost souls. Let us pray every day that Satan's influence be removed from the unsaved and that they will be given a realization of what the final judgment and eternity will be like for them if they haven't repented and had their sins forgiven before their appointed time comes to die. —Bro. Bill Busch

Giving

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38.

This Scripture has been ringing in my ears. It seems like we are living in such a selfish world. The blessedness of giving has been so diminished that even we as saints have to force ourselves to give sometimes. We focus so much on our own desires, feelings and impulses that we may have little time, money or energy left for God's work.

There are so many ways we can give our time. Much encouragement and visiting needs to be done. If you are bound to the home for some reason, this can be done through letter writing or phone calls. The phone and pen are too often used as a means of hurt, rather than for what the Lord intended. Those of us who have families should be giving much time in guiding and instructing our children. We should never be too busy to do our duty to our children. When other duties crowd, we should reevaluate. Families need to be brought together by spending time

together. Many mothers and fathers are too busy with their own interests. Children and young people must have quality time from you. At the same time, it is necessary to teach our children the importance of giving and sacrificing. They learn from our example how to write, to serve and to give. Provide ways for them to do this. It will bless you both.

Our Christian schools, Sunday schools, Young People's meetings, etc. are wonderful ways to give. If there is a need in these areas, and there often is, we should all be willing to fill the job. The Bible says to do it "heartily as unto the Lord." The Lord always blesses us for being willing to give, even if we feel incapable. There are so many Scriptures to assure us of His wisdom and strength for these circumstances.

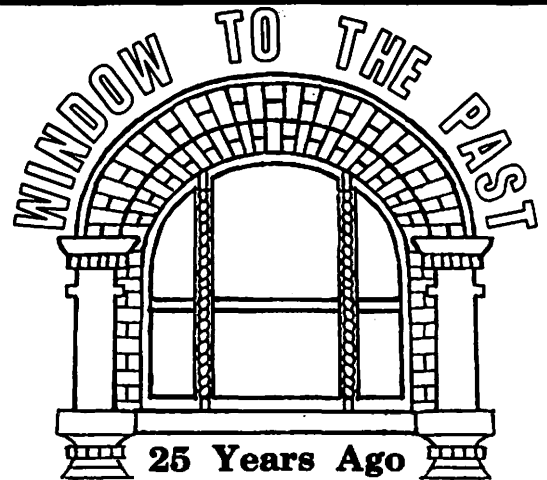
Are we so scheduled that we cannot take time to visit our neighbors or speak to visitors at church services? We need to open our eyes to the needs of others and give of ourselves. There is much to be done. When there are sick ones, do we call, drop a line or sit with them? Time would not allow us to list all of the things we can do with our time that will help us keep victory and make it into heaven. We as saints must learn how to feel the Spirit's leadings in these areas. We cannot expect one or two in the congregation to do it all.

Our homes, cars and personal belongings sometimes become a shrine to us. We don't want them used. Our furniture, carpets, interiors, etc., are too expensive or precious to be used. May the Lord help us to open our hearts and homes to anyone or anything the Lord would have us to do. We may have to be a "meeting place" or a "school bus," but we need to be there if we are needed. Let your home be a place of love where young people or burdened people can feel welcome.

We need to be teaching our young people to give their talents to the Lord. We should help them be mission-minded and find a place to give their time to help others. Marriage, careers, and families can all come in time. They are good, but we have so many areas that we could encourage our young people in that would help build them spiritually while they mature. It would draw them closer to the Lord and make them more capable of decision-making later. Sacrificing and giving have a way of strengthening us.

May the Lord challenge each of us to give all of ourselves to Him. What a Church it would be if we would all do this! It is true that works will not get us to heaven, but if we want to be filled spiritually we must give.

—Sis. Jeanie Samons



Excerpts Taken From
April, 1965 *Faith and Victory*

"Because you prayed—
God touched our weary bodies with His power,
And gave us strength for many a trying hour
In which we might have faltered, had not you,
Our intercessors, faithful been and true.

"Because you prayed—
God touched our lips with coals from altar fire,
Gave Spirit fulness, and did so inspire,
That when we spoke, sin-blinded eyes did see;
Sin's chains were broken, captives were made free.

"Because you prayed—
The dwellers in the dark have found the Light,
The glad good news has banished heathen night.
The message of the cross so long delayed,
Has brought them life at last, because you prayed."—Selected by Harland H. Smith

"Outside Jerusalem to the north, three crosses stood. On the middle cross our blessed Saviour was hanged. Beside Him on the left and on the right were two thieves. The first thief 'died in sin.' Our blessed Saviour, on the second cross, 'died for sin.' The third thief 'died to sin.' "

"I was glad to be in Shawnee, OK with the saints, as they had an afternoon meeting at The Golden Rule Home, on the second anniversary of its opening (Feb. 21). There were eleven dear older saints living there at that time. It was precious to hear them tell how much they enjoyed being there in the home."—Sister Marie Miles